

Message Text

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ACTION CU-06

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FOR: CU/ARA

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TAGS: SCUL
SUBJECT: PAUL TAYLOR DANCE COMPANY

REF: STATE 290196

1. TWO EXCELLENT PERFORMANCES BY THE PAUL TAYLOR DANCE COMPANY ON OCTOBER 18 AND 19, 1977 AT THE NATIONAL THEATRE UNDER THE SPONSORSHIP OF THE INSTITUTO PANAMENO DE ARTE (PANARTE) AND MRS. SYLVIA POPE WERE CULTURAL EVENTS OF THE YEAR. ON THE OPENING EVENING A DELAYED START WAS REWARDED BY THE PRESENCE OF PRESIDENT AND MRS. DEMETRIO LAKAS, WHO MADE A SPECIAL EFFORT TO SEE THIS WELL KNOWN U.S. DANCE COMPANY. UPON CONCLUSION OF THE PROGRAM A LARGE BOUQUET OF FLOWERS PRESENTED ON STAGE TO THE GROUP BY A PRESIDENTIAL ASSISTANT WITH WARM WORDS OF PRAISE WAS FOLLOWED BY THRILLED AUDIENCE'S RARE STANDING OVATION. AN AUDIENCE ESTIMATED AT 900 PERSONS ATTENDED THIS FIRST PRESENTATION, AND IT WAS AN AUDIENCE FAMILIAR WITH THE WELL KNOWN ARTISTIC REPUTATION OF THE PAUL TAYLOR GROUP. THE SECOND EVENING'S PERFORMANCE WAS ALMOST EQUALLY WELL ATTENDED -SOME 800 PERSONS- BUT CONSISTED OF A MORE MIXED GROUP.

2. BEFORE THE ALWIN NIKOLAIS DANCE GROUP HAD DEPARTED AFTER A VERY SUCCESSFUL PRESENTATION LAST MAY UNDER THE
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SPONSORSHIP OF THE INSTITUTO NACIONAL DE CULTURA (INAC) AND USIS, THE POST WAS AWARE THAT A LOCAL AMERICAN, MR. SYLVIA POPE (NATHOM VENTURES), WAS NEGOTIATING WITH THE PAUL TAYLOR DANCE COMPANY FOR TWO PERFORMANCES IN OCTOBER 1977. IN FACT, THE POST'S PROMOTION OF THE NIKOLAIS PROGRAM, WHICH WAS GREATLY ASSISTED BY MRS. POPE, ALSO INCLUDED AN EXCELLENT MOTION PICTURE FILM ON

PAUL TAYLOR AND A MESSAGE THAT THE GROUP WOULD BE IN PANAMA LATER IN THE YEAR. SO WHILE THE POST WAS CONDUCTING A PROMOTION CAMPAIGN TO INTEREST LOCAL DANCERS AND ESPECIALLY INVITED AUDIENCES IN THE NIKLOAIS SHOW, IT WAS ALSO SIMULTANEOUSLY PREPARING THEM FOR ANOTHER OUTSTANDING DANCE SHOW LATER IN THE YEAR. DURING THIS PERIOD THE LOCAL DANCE GROUPS, WHO WERE EXTREMELY ENTHUSIASTIC PROMOTERS NOT ONLY AMONG THEMSELVES, BUT AMONG OTHER CULTURAL GROUPS TOO, AT ONE POINT GOT DAME MARGOT FONTEYN, WHO WAS IN PANAMA AT THE TIME, TO TWO USIS MOTION PICTURE PROGRAMS ON THE DANCE AND ENLISTED HER ASSISTANCE ALSO. DAME MARGOT'S GRACIOUS SUPPORT CERTAINLY INFLUENCED A NUMBER OF PEOPLE AND HEARTENED LOCAL DANCERS EVEN MORE.

3. WITH THE EARLY KNOWLEDGE THAT MRS. POPE WAS PROCEEDING WITH TOTALLY PRIVATE ARRANGEMENTS TO CONTRACT THE PAUL TAYLOR GROUP, THE POST COOPERATED SUBSTANTIALLY AND ASSISTED WHEREEVER POSSIBLE TO ASSURE ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL U.S. CULTURAL PROGRAM. MRS. POPE'S INITIAL EFFORTS AS AN IMPRESARIO WERE FREQUENTLY FRUSTRATING, BUT SHE CONSULTED CONSTANTLY WITH THE POST. THIS CONSULTATION PROVIDED AN OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW PROGRESS, AS WELL AS PROVIDE CONSIDERABLE ADVICE ABOUT DIVERSE ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS ABOUT WHICH SHE KNEW LITTLE.

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4. AT ONE POINT IT WAS NOT CLEAR WHETHER OR NOT THE DANCE GROUP WOULD MAKE ANY APPEARANCES AT ALL IN PANAMA OWING TO THE REDUCED ITINERARY. THE DEPARTMENT'S ASSISTANCE CAME AT THE MOST PROPITIOUS MOMENT, HOWEVER. THROUGHOUT ALL THE PLANNING THE POST DID ALL WITHIN ITS POWER TO ASSIST MRS. POPE'S EFFORTS, SINCE THEY WERE CONSIDERED OF PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE IN THE DIRECTION OF SUPPORT TO PRIVATE INITIATIVE, WHICH IS NOTABLY LACKING IN PANAMA. IN FACT, HER INITIATIVE WAS THE FIRST OF ITS KIND IN YEARS, AND ITS RESULTS WERE EXCELLENT.

JORDEN

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